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US sanctions MS-13 gang, says 'extremely dangerous'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday declared the notorious Central American MS-13 gang one of the world's most dangerous criminal groups, launching a campaign to lock down its financial resources.

The US Treasury officially labeled the Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, a "transnational criminal organization," a designation also applied to the Italian mafia and Japanese Yakuza, and set sanctions banning any US citizens from doing business with the group.

"MS-13 is an extremely vi-

olent and dangerous gang responsible for a multitude of crimes that directly threaten the welfare and security of US citizens, as well as countries throughout Central America," said Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen.

Cohen said the group has been expanding its activities in murder, racketeering, drug trafficking and sex trafficking.

"What we see is an organization with substantial financial flows," said Cohen.

Continued on page 5

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At the 18th World Routes Airport Marketing Award: AAA receives "Highly Commended" and Runner-up status in Abu Dhabi



ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) attended the 18th annual World Routes Developments Forum which was held in Abu Dhabi and AAA is very proud to announce that at this year's World Routes Awards 2012 during the Networking Evening of World Routes 2012 in Abu Dhabi held at the Yas Marina Circuit, home of the F1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix racing circuit, AAA received the "Highly Commended" marketing award in the category of airports worldwide under 4 million passengers.

Darwin International Airport (Australia) was awarded winner in this new award category for "Airports Under Four Million Passengers" and was one of five airports making it to the shortlist. Two airports were singled out with Highly Commended status for their marketing approach – Aruba Airport Authority and Friedrichshafen Airport (Germany). Other shortlisted airports were London City Airport and Princess Juliana International Airport, St Maarten.

The World Routes Awards have grown and developed over the last 15 years and are unique within the industry because they are voted for exclusively by the airline network

planning community. The prestige of these industry awards, which recognize excellence in air service development by airports, is largely due to this method of voting.

The World Routes conference is an industry-wide renowned event on the aviation sector's calendar. The event is attended by more than 3,500 senior aviation professionals and decision making personnel including airlines and airports from around the world, and is an annual event rotating worldwide that has proven to be an excellent networking and business building opportunity for Aruba Airport for more than 10 years.

AAA had a packed itinerary of one-on-one meetings ses-

sions with different representatives of several existing and potential airlines partners, such as KLM, Arkefly, Delta, US Airways, JetBlue, AirTran/Southwest, Copa Airlines, AeroMexico, LATAM, Air Canada, Virgin Atlantic and British Airways. During the Conference, AAA operated from the Schiphol Group (Amsterdam, Eindhoven, New York, Brisbane and Aruba) chalet in the main exhibition area.

"World Routes is and has been the perfect opportunity for Aruba Airport to maintain its current network and to open new networking opportunities with airline and other industry partners. The hard work in promoting the airport is clearly displayed in the numerous consecutive nominations and awards of this prestigious award. We're very proud to be Highly Commended again this year! It shows that AAA is a leader in the Airline Marketing business," said Peter Steinmetz, CEO of AAA.

AAA will continue to attend both the World Routes and the Routes Latin America networking conferences to boost its networking activities on a yearly basis.

Picture shows Head Airline Marketing Ms. Jo-Anne Arends of AAA with the award.



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IBISA promoting good health for our elderly



ORANJESTAD -- A platform between Instituto Biba Saludabel y Activo (IBISA), Department of Social Affairs, Fundacion Movimiento ta Bida, YMCA Aruba, and the Organization of Pensioners of Aruba (OPPA) was formed with the objective of organizing various activities to stimulate and motivate our elderly to do healthy exercises. These activities were designed for the month of October as this is the month of our elderly.

and beyond in physical shape. Here is the calendar of activities:

Friday, October 12th:

There will be an activity on the Linear Park between 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with the opportunity to participate in a "Dance-Fit," "Tai-Chi," and dance on the rhythm of Grupo Pachanga, walk with the Grupo Thrill Walkers S.V. and also do coordination and movements with Fysio-Fit and Fundacion Movimiento ta Bida.



After celebrating International Day of the Elderly on October 1st, the program continues with various activities to keep our 50+, 60+, 70+ 80+

The Bus di Salud will also be there to provide free services to our elderly and anyone else.

Monday, October 15th:

The activity program will continue at the Community Pool in San Nicolas. Here, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. they will do 'water-aerobics' especially for those persons 50 years and older. Everyone is invited to come out and experience exercises in the water and learn how this is done. Again, the Bus di Salud will be present at the Community Pool between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. to provide free services.

Friday, October 26th:

The physical activities will continue at the Parke Jaburibari for our elderly. This will be a day of physical activities where our elderly can participate from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in a variety of interesting activities.

The primary objective of these activities is to get our elderly involved in wholesome physical activities. This will inevitably contribute to better health overall.

IBISA is cordially inviting all elderly to come out and take advantage of these interesting activities which will definitely improve your health and well being.

Aruba creating 5.2KM of Cycling Track



ORANJESTAD -- The government has recently begun a pilot project for the realization of a cycling track in the hotel area. The government made it known that in all of their infrastructure planning they have always included the possibility for a bicycle path or cycling track where citizens can freely ride their bicycles.

Based on information received from Holland on how they do it, they have now incorporated a cycle path in the first phase of the Linear Park project and now they are introducing cycling tracks. The cycle track is a pilot project which runs from the Wyndham Hotel up to the area near the entrance of the wharf on the L.G. Smith Boulevard. The area is about 5.2km in length and will be marked with a blue line on the road. This is for cyclists to use with more security.

The difference between the two systems is that the cycle track can be done much faster, less expensively, on existing roads by simply marking off about one meter and a half for the use of cyclists. Whereas the cycle path must be constructed on the road side which takes more time and costs more.

For now, they have decided to mark off only one side of

the road with a blue band from the Wyndham Hotel up to the vicinity of the Fatum building.

Should this pilot project succeed, the government will implement the system at various other areas on the island where there is insufficient space for constructing a cycle path.

Reportedly, the Green Corridor project includes a cycle path. The cycle path in the Green Corridor will begin at the airport and lead up to San Nicolas and will be on both sides of the roads.

Then at the other extreme point on the island, beginning at Arashi, they will construct a cycle path up to the hotels which will connect with the cycling track system being installed now. This means that very soon cyclists will have lots of kilometers for riding their bicycles across the island.

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Tropical depression 16 forms

A tropical depression has formed east of the Bahamas, but the National Hurricane Center does not expect it to strengthen into a tropical storm. The depression, a tropical system similar to a tropical storm but with winds below 39 mph, is moving southwest. The storm system was producing 35 mph winds. Wind shear is forecast to tear the storm apart within the next day or two, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Another tropical wave east of the Windward Islands is forecast to eventually develop into a stronger tropical system. The hurricane center forecast gives the wave a 50 percent chance of reaching at least tropical depression strength by Saturday. The storm is not likely to affect the U.S. mainland, but it could affect several Caribbean islands.

The next two storms to develop into tropical storms will receive the names Patty and Rafael.

Government has decided to move schools to safe locations

ORANJESTAD -- After some lengthy deliberations with school board SPCOA, teachers, school heads and representatives of Parents Commission, the government made the decision to move the Mon Plaisir Kindergarten and Primary schools to safe locations. This decision is on account of reports that asbestos was found on the premises of the school, even after it was told that there was no more asbestos in the area.

On Monday, school will resume for the kids attending the Mon Plaisir schools. Classes will be divided and allocated at three different locations: the kindergarten classes will move to the Dakota YMCA, classes 1, 2 and 3 will be moved to the Jolley Holding building on the L.G. Smith Boulevard, and classes 4, 5 and 6 will move to the DOC Opleidingen building in Sividivi.

According to the Minister of Education, Arthur Dowers, an independent report by experts was prepared on the situation at the schools which indicated that there is no im-



mediate risk from asbestos at the schools. However, because a piece of asbestos had fallen on the premises which had broken off a roof that was not replaced, they concluded it is necessary to find a solution to eliminate whatever risk. Obviously, neither teachers nor parents are not comfortable with the situation, hence the reason for the actions taken.

The Minister reported that the plans for the renovation of

the Mon Plaisir School are ready and soon the funds will be in place and they will begin first off with changing the electrical installation, then renovate the sanitary system and remove the asbestos roofs and replace these with other material.

Two other schools are on the list for urgent repairs, namely, Cristo Rey, which is already in the process of renovation, and Frere Bonifacius.

In the case of Frere Bonifacius, like Mon Plaisir; teachers are uncomfortable working in that school building.

Minister Dowers assured everyone that his ministry will assume their responsibility for education and that they will always take the human factor into account. He was grateful for the participation of everyone in achieving a solution for the situation.



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The Seventeenth Stair

By Laurie Rockwell



Laurie Rockwell, one of a very elite club called "Lagolites," kindly sent us a creative effort she has submitted to the Florida Weekly, a small paper out of Ft. Myers, where she lives. She is Senior Staff Assistant at City of Fort Myers Fleet Operations.

Laurie is one of those rare individual who grew up and went to school on Aruba at the Lago Height School, while her father was an executive with the Esso Refinery. She and others from her graduating class of 1966 were on Aruba in December of 2011 for a reunion. Their story, and delightful recollections of an Aruba long past, were published in THE MORNING NEWS.

Laurie was inspired by her warm, wonderful memories of her youth on Aruba for her submission to the Florida Weekly writing challenge. The premise of the contest was to base the story on a picture presented to the Florida paper of an old stone stairway. Laurie weaves a tale of intrigue and irony, which showcases Aruba's allure.

Laurie has kindly sent THE MORNING NEWS her story, with the thought we would be interested in publishing it, and we are, indeed!

The Seventeenth Stair

"So ya gettin' out tomorra,

eh?"

Daniel nodded laconically at his cell mate sitting across from him, a seasoned con who had been in the "pen" in Georgia for near twenty years.

"So watcha gonna do, boy?"

"I dunno," Daniel answered, "probably a drink and a woman, like most."

But Daniel knew exactly what he was going to do on his release.

He was currently serving a ten year sentence in prison in the State of Georgia for armed robbery. He and two partners robbed the First National Bank of Atlanta in 1985 and happily got away with about \$1,700,000.00, that cut three ways nicely, well four ways, as his former girlfriend Maggie had provided a house nearby to the bank, a car, false papers and means for travel to different airports after the deed was

rette.

"I dunno," Daniel answered, exhaling slowly. "Always liked the sound of it, or somethin'. Kind of exotic-like."

And so it proved to be. Daniel drove to Miami International, stashed \$2,000.00 in an airport locker along with a false passport and other I.D.'s and caught a KLM flight to Curaçao with a hop to Aruba. He carried his nearly half million dollar share of dollars in a money belt and upon arrival stashed one half of the funds in his own hotel safe, and then walked to the hotel next door, booked a room for his "cousins" and stashed the other half in that safe. During his entire time there, neither of the hotels was aware of the double play. Daniel spent many hours exploring the island, its beaches, reefs, fishing and diving grounds, its fascinating



done. They had agreed to leave the country through separate airports to separate destinations, lay low for a time and then straggle back if they wanted with no further communication necessary between them. Gary had chosen to go to Mexico, Mickey to the Grand Caymans and Daniel to Aruba. Maggie would drive to Canada and stay with her sister in Quebec until Daniel got in touch at a good time for return.

"Why Aruba, Danny?" asked Maggie one night as they lay entwined, sharing a ciga-

caves, the unusual wildlife. He made a special effort to talk to the banks to become familiar with Dutch laws governing deposits in U.S. Dollars. He noticed that in every clerical office he visited, the staff and clerks kept very careful records, usually in clear, legible long-hand script. Too careful, he thought. When he listened to requests of other bank customers, he noted that records archived for even 30 years previous were easily retrieved.

Continued in tomorrow's edition

Oncology and Internal Medicine clinics closed today and Monday, moving to other building



PUNTA BRABO -- Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital announces that the Oncology and Internal Medicine clinics are moving to another building. The move is due to the high demand for additional space and to give patients the necessary privacy when undergoing chemotherapy.

Today, October 12 and Monday, October 15 the clinics will move to the Aruba Heart Institute building, situated in the Caya Dr. J.E.M. Arends #14. On Tuesday, October 16, the clinics will be open again normally.

The telephone number for the Oncology clinic will re-

main the same. The services moving to the new premises are chemotherapy and the offices of Dr. Wassenaar, Dr. Jonkhoff and Dr. Samsom. The entrance is situated north of the main entrance of the building.

As of Tuesday, October 16, the Internal Medicine clinic will have a new telephone number: 527-4309. The offices moving there are of Dr. Kelly, Dr. Hoogendam and Dr. Waterloo.

According to the Horacio Oduber Hospital the move is to offer patients a better service and the privacy that each patient deserves.



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US sanctions MS-13 gang...

Continued from page 1

So Washington wants "to prevent MS-13 from using its financial wherewithal to infiltrate... legitimate business."

Sanctions under the new designation will help US authorities shut MS-13 out of the US financial system and make it more difficult for it to move money around the world, he said.

Cohen called the action a "first step" in a campaign that could see, as with other designated criminal organizations, leaders, their families, and any related businesses hit with sanctions.

With at least 30,000 members, mostly in Central and North America, including 8,000 in the United States, the group is "one of the most dangerous and rapidly expanding criminal gangs in the world today," the Treasury said.

"MS-13's criminal nature can be seen in one of its mottos, 'Mata, roba, viola, controla' ('Kill, steal, rape, control')."

The move officially places MS-13 on a list of "significant transnational criminal organizations" which already includes the Brother's Circle rooted in Russia and Eastern Europe, Mexico's Zetas, Italy's Camorra and Japan's Yakuza.

It allows the United States to block any assets or property of MS-13-linked people or businesses, and prohibits any US citizens or US firms from doing any business with the group.

"This action positions us to target the associates and financial networks supporting MS-13, and gives law enforcement an additional tool in its efforts to disrupt MS-13's activities," said Cohen.

The Treasury said MS-13's local units, found in 40 US states, are directed by a leadership based in Central America, mainly in El Salvador.

"Money generated by local MS-13 cliques in the US is consolidated and funneled to the group's leadership in El Salvador," it said.

Since 2006, more than 4,000 MS-13 members have been arrested inside the United States.



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Yemeni security officer from US mission shot dead

DUBAI (AFP) - Unidentified gunmen shot dead a senior Yemeni security official employed by the US embassy in Sanaa in a hit-and-run attack yesterday, US and security officials said.

The murder came after a spate of attacks US interests in the Middle East, following protests last month at the US embassy in Cairo and a deadly

assault on a consulate in the Libyan city of Benghazi.

Qassem Aqlan was shot dead by gunmen on a motorbike as he drove along Sittin Street, a main artery of the Yemeni capital, a Yemeni official said, adding that the assailants managed to escape.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Aqlan, who had worked at the

embassy for 11 years and was a foreign service national investigator in the regional security office, was "a dedicated professional, and he will be greatly missed."

Staff at the Sanaa mission had an emergency meeting yesterday to review security in the wake of the killing.

"We're coordinating closely with the Yemeni authorities to

investigate this attack and to help bring those responsible to justice," Nuland said.

But she stressed it was too soon to know why he had been targeted, although she ruled out earlier reports that Aqlan had been part of the team investigating the storming of US embassy in Sanaa on September 13.



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International news

Arrests in France highlight rising homegrown terror threat

PARIS (AFP) - A French prosecutor yesterday branded a homegrown group of Islamist extremists as the biggest terror threat the country has faced since the Algerian-based GIA carried out a string of deadly bombings in the 1990s.

Announcing charges of attempted murder and terrorism against seven out of 12 suspects arrested over the weekend, Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said they had been part of an active terrorist cell that was "probably the most dangerous in France since 1996."

The group had been plotting to mount attacks in France and to join up with other "jihadists" in Syria and elsewhere, Molins said. The profile of the suspects in custody was "much more dangerous than we initially assumed", he added. "We have been able to avoid a terrorist attack in our country."

Later yesterday, French President Francois Hollande vowed to track down and destroy Islamist extremist cells operating inside the country.

"We won't leave off them, we will go after them and we will eliminate them," he said.

Hollande also argued that letting extremism flourish abroad could come back to hurt France.

Authorities had information there were French nationals with the hardline Islamists in northern Mali, Somalia and Syria, he said. He could not permit them to return to France with plans to launch attacks there.

The GIA, or Armed Islamic Group, emerged from Algeria's civil war and was responsible for a string of bombings in France in 1995 and 1996. One of the attacks, on the St Michel metro station in Paris, left eight people dead.

US names new diplomat to Libya after envoy's killing

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States named yesterday a new charge d'affaires to Libya following the murder of ambassador Chris Stevens in last month's militant attack on the US consulate in Benghazi.

Veteran diplomat and Arabic speaker Laurence Pope has arrived in Tripoli already, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said in a statement.

His appointment "emphasizes the commitment of the United States to the relationship between our two countries and to the people of Libya as they move forward in their transition to a democratic government," Nuland said.

"We will continue to assist as Libya builds democratic institutions and broad respect for the rule of law -- the goals that Ambassador Stevens worked hard to achieve."

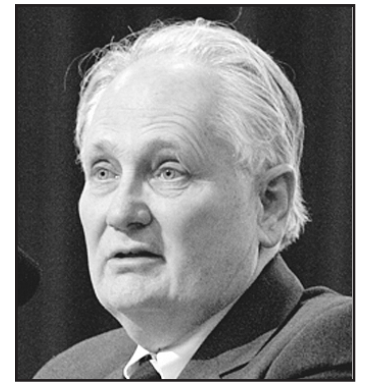
Pope has come out of retirement to take up the post at a time when the State Department is still investigating the September 11 attack in which Stevens and three other American diplomatic staff were

killed.

Stevens was the first ambassador to be killed on duty since 1979 and the horrific attack on the Benghazi consulate when dozens of armed men stormed the building, bombarding it and torching it, has shocked the US diplomatic community to the core.

But the US administration of President Barack Obama has vowed to stand by the people of Libya as it struggles to build a democracy following the toppling of long-time autocratic leader Moamer Kadhafi last year.

Pope looks forward to working with the Libyan gov-



ernment and the Libyan people during this historic and challenging time, as we build strong economic, social, political, and educational bridges between our two people," Nuland added.

Egypt's Brotherhood head urges jihad for Jerusalem

CAIRO (AFP) - The supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, from which Egypt's President Mohamed Morsi emanated, called yesterday for a jihad (holy war) to liberate Jerusalem from Israeli rule.

"Jerusalem is Islamic ... and nobody is entitled to make concessions" on the Holy City, said Sheikh Mohammed Badie in his weekly message to supporters.

"The jihad for the recovery of Jerusalem is a duty for all Muslims," he said, stressing that the liberation of the Holy City "will not be done through

negotiations or at the United Nations."

Israel, which signed a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979, has watched with concern as Islamists were catapulted to the forefront of politics following a popular uprising that toppled president Hosni Mubarak last year.

Morsi has repeatedly said he would respect international treaties signed by Cairo. But his former movement has also said there is room to revise the accords, without objecting to them in principle.



The "Mothers of Srebrenica" demonstrate in front of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, eastern France. Widows and family members of the 8,372 victims of Srebrenica have appealed to the Court to examine the immunity judgment rendered by the highest Civil Court of the Netherlands. The move by the Mothers of Srebrenica comes after a lawsuit accusing the United Nations and the Dutch state of negligence for failing to protect the victims of the 1995 wartime massacre in the Bosnian town was dismissed by the Netherlands supreme court. (AFP)



A Bangladeshi resident walks over the destroyed roof of a building in Monpura on Bhola island. At least 19 people were killed and an estimated 1,500 fishermen are missing after tropical storms smashed into Bangladesh's southern coastal islands and districts yesterday, police said. (AFP)

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International news

Turkey says Syria plane carried 'ammunition'

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria accused Turkey of hostility on yesterday after it intercepted a passenger jet en route from Moscow which Ankara said carried military equipment and ammunition for the Damascus regime.

As the tensions between Damascus and Ankara soared, rebels fighting forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad won more territory as they bid to secure a "buffer zone" in a swathe of land abutting the Turkish border, an AFP reporter said.

Ankara scrambled two jets on Wednesday evening to force down the Syrian Air Airbus A-320, Turkish officials said, after receiving intelligence its cargo did not comply with civil aviation rules.

The aircraft with 35 passengers on board was grounded for nine hours before it was finally allowed to resume its journey to Damascus, as Turkey said it confiscated unspecified "objectionable" cargo.

Damascus said the interception was "hostile and reprehensible" and "another sign of the hostile policies of the Erdogan government, which harbours rebels and bombs Syrian territory." It furiously demanded Turkey return the cargo it had seized at Ankara's Esenboga Airport.

"Turkish military aircraft... forced the plane to land with-

out giving prior warning. The military aircraft were so close that there could have been an accident," said Syrian Air director Aida Abdel Latif.

But Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday that the plane carried military equipment and ammunition for the Syrian regime.

He said the cargo was "equipment and ammunition shipped to the Syrian Defence Ministry" from a Russian military supplier.

Erdogan did not name the Russian supplier, but said it was the Russian counterpart of Turkey's Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation, which is the Turkish army's main provider of military equipment.

Russia, a top Damascus ally and its biggest arms supplier, said Ankara had put the passengers' lives at risk, and denied it was carrying weapons or military equipment.

French President Francois Hollande yesterday warned of a risk of tensions rising between Syria and Turkey, which he praised for showing restraint and preventing broader conflict.

"It's a risk, and Turkey has been especially restrained," Hollande told French television and radio. "I welcome the attitude of its leaders because there have been aggressions and provocations."

Dutch navy detains alleged Somali pirates after attack

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch sailors taking part in NATO's piracy-busting operation Ocean Shield yesterday detained seven suspected pirates off the coast of Somalia after an attack on a Spanish vessel.

Attack on Afghan girls' school

KABUL (AFP) - Men armed with bombs have attacked a girls' school in central Afghanistan, following a string of such assaults by Taliban insurgents, President Hamid Karzai said yesterday.

The unidentified attackers hurled explosives into the school late Wednesday, causing considerable damage but no injuries, according to a statement from Karzai's office.

The statement did not blame the Taliban for the attack in normally calm Bamyan province, but the hardline Islamist group banned girls from attending school when they were in power and have regularly targeted pupils and their schools.

"The enemies of education must know that by carrying out such terrorist attacks, they cannot make our people back off from the strong determination they have for their children's education," Karzai said.

In May this year following a wave of insurgent attacks on mainly girls' schools, the United Nations mission in Afghanistan condemned the assaults and called for more protection of the right to an education -- especially for girls.

There are fears that gains made by women and girls since the Taliban were ousted from power in a US-led invasion in 2001 could be eroded when international troops pull out by 2014.

The alleged pirates were intercepted by Dutch amphibian transport HMS Rotterdam after the Izurdia was ambushed by a small boat off the Horn of Africa, the Dutch defence ministry said in a statement.

"The suspected skiff was stopped after warning shots were fired and a helicopter-borne team boarded the boat," the Rotterdam's commander Huub Hulsker said in the statement.

"The boarding team detained seven suspects who were taken on board the Rotterdam," he added.

Defence ministry spokesman Jos van der Leij told AFP the Izurdia managed to repel the attack, but did not give details.

The 12,700-ton Rotterdam sailed to Aden on July 11 to take part in Operation Ocean Shield, the defence ministry added on its website.

Officials: US drone strike kills 18 in Pakistan



Local Pakistani residents gather at the site of a bomb explosion in Sibi, some 180 kilometres southeast of Quetta.

PESHAWAR, (AFP) - A US drone attack yesterday killed 18 insurgents -- mostly Afghans -- at a militant compound in Pakistan's tribal region near the northwestern border with Afghanistan, officials said.

It was the second US missile strike reported in as many days in the northwest, considered a stronghold of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

The attack was the deadliest since similar strike in August last year killed 21 Taliban fighters in the restive tribal region.

A bomb attached to a motorcycle killed nine people and injured 22 others in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province yesterday, officials said.

The bomb was remotely detonated near a market in Sibi, some 180 kilometres (112 miles) southeast of Quetta, the provincial capital, police said.

"Nine people have been killed and 22 injured," a local police official Qazi Hussain Ahmad told AFP.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack

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Health & Living

Tainted drug death toll rises to 14 in US

CHICAGO (AFP) - The death toll from a deadly meningitis outbreak in the United States blamed on a tainted drug rose to 14 Thursday as the number of cases jumped to 170 in 11 states, health officials said.

Investigators say as many as 13,000 people in 23 states may have received contaminated doses of the steroid, which is typically injected into the spine to treat back pain.

Among the hardest hit states were Tennessee with 49 cases and six deaths, Michigan with 39 cases and three deaths and Virginia with 30 cases and one

death, according to the latest update from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Idaho reported its first case on Wednesday.

The rare fungal infection -- which inflames the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord -- often goes undetected until it is too late because its flu-like symptoms can be mild at first. But meningitis is not contagious in this form.

Treatment requires a hospital stay and intravenous antifungal medications.

US health officials launched

an investigation after the first case was discovered in September and discovered fungal contaminants in steroids produced by the New England Compounding Center.

The Massachusetts-based company subsequently issued a voluntary recall of all of its products and shut down all operations.

A second manufacturing pharmacy owned by the same people, Ameridose and its distributor Alanaus, temporarily suspended operations on Wednesday but did not recall any products.

Denying girls school entrenches poverty

NEW YORK (AFP) - Millions of girls worldwide are not going to school, an education gap that condemns them to lives of hardship and entrenches broader extreme poverty, a new report said.

The report, "Because I am a Girl: The State of the World's Girls 2012," was released in New York by Plan International on the United Nation's first International Day of the Girl.

"The estimated 75 million

girls missing from classrooms across the world is a major violation of rights and a huge waste of young potential," the child poverty alleviation group said in launching the report.

A total of one in three girls is denied education, but Plan's report focuses especially on the 39 million girls aged between 11 and 15, right on the cusp of becoming young women, who are out of school.

The report -- which coincided with the news this week

of a 14-year-old Pakistani girl gunned down for her criticism of Taliban campaigns against girl's education -- underlined the hugely positive impact that school can have on girls in poor countries.

Plan called on global leaders to ensure a minimum of nine years' schooling for all children, giving them a better chance to enter secondary education.

But special priority should be given to girls, the humanitarian organization said, with greater funding and programs to stop child marriage and violence in schools -- two main reasons for the current dropout rate among girls.

In many cases, poor families pull daughters from school out of fear for their health or safety. In Ghana, 83 percent of parents interviewed for the report said the risks of pregnancy were a disadvantage of school.

As the report came out, Pakistani teen Malala Yousafzai was fighting for her life after being shot in the head in broad daylight on a school bus.

Breast Self-Examination



It's important to know how your breasts normally look and feel. That way, you can spot any changes quickly and report them to your doctor. The best time to examine your breasts is usually one week after your menstrual period begins, when your breast tissue is least likely to be swollen or tender. If your menstrual cycle is irregular, or if you have stopped menstruating due to menopause or the removal of your uterus (hysterectomy), do your examination on the same day every month. Look at your breasts and feel each breast and armpit. You may find it easiest to do this in the shower or bath, by running a soapy hand over each breast and up under each armpit. You can look at your breasts in the mirror. Moving your arms around will allow you to see your breasts from every angle. Breast changes can happen for many reasons, and most of them aren't serious. Many women have breast lumps, and 9 out of 10 are not cancerous. However, if you find changes in your breast that aren't normal for you, it's best to see your GP as soon as possible. This is because the sooner breast cancer is diagnosed, the better the chance of successful treatment.



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Sci-Tech

Despite slow start, ebooks gain ground in Europe

FRANKFURT (AFP) - Electronic books, which have sparked excited chatter for several years in the publishing world, are now gaining momentum among European readers, despite a late start compared to the US, industry insiders say.

Ebook reading devices only become available later in some European countries and ebook prices in others have been too high to entice readers away from their traditional bound rivals, they said.

Britain, where Amazon launched its Kindle ebook reader in 2010, is further down the digital road, with consumer ebook sales making up about 13 percent of combined print and ebook sales in the first half of 2012, according to The Publishers Association.

In the Netherlands, ebooks are also expected to double to

three percent of the market in 2012, a trend predicted to continue next year, said Erik-Jan Bulthuis from distributing company cb.

One reason why ebooks have been more eagerly embraced in the US is that many Americans live in areas without a local book shop nearby, Kornelia Holzhausen, head of digital media at Germany's Piper Verlag publishers said.

Germany also has a policy of fixed prices for books, considering them to be a "cultural good", meaning ebooks could not be marketed as price aggressively as in Britain or the US.

Amazon does not have the possibility in the German market to use price as a tool which may be one of the reasons as well why the market is not exploding as fast.

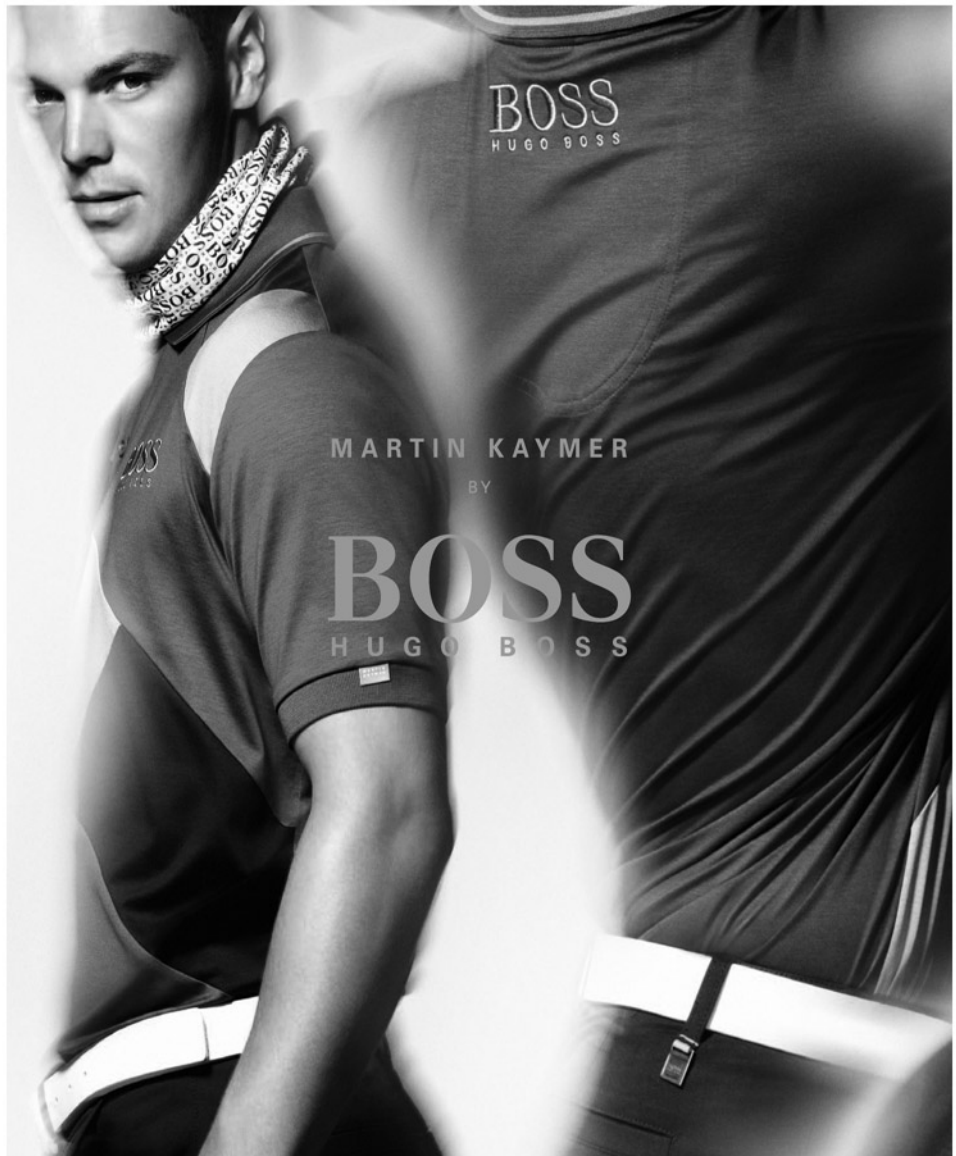
Ebooks are however about 20 to 30 percent cheaper than printed books in Germany.



DHAKA (AFP) - At least 20 people were killed and an estimated 1,500 fishermen are missing after tropical storms smashed into Bangladesh's southern coastal islands and districts early Thursday, police said. Police said at least 1,500 mud, tin and straw-built houses were also levelled in the storms that swept Bhola, Hatiya and Sandwip Islands and half a dozen coastal districts after Wednesday midnight. At the worst-hit island of Hatiya, at least seven people were killed after they were buried under their houses or hit by fallen trees, said local police chief Moktar Hossain. More than 1,000 houses were flattened. Many fishermen are expected to have taken shelter in other remote islands in the Bay of Bengal or in the neighbouring Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest. In the past, many fishermen thought to be missing from storms returned home to coastal villages a week or two later.



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Google launches online 'Cultural Institute' chronicling 20th century



WARSAW (AFP) - Google on Wednesday launched its online "Cultural Institute", a digital visual archive of landmark 20th century events and personalities, created in cooperation with 17 museums and institutes from across the globe.

The archives focus on legends like Anne Frank, the young Jewish-Dutch Holocaust victim whose famous diary chronicled her plight; South African freedom icon Nelson Mandela; as well as lesser-known heroes like Jan Karski, a Polish anti-Nazi partisan who brought the Allies early eye-witness testimony of

the Holocaust.

Six million archive photographs, documents, texts and films, provided by museums including the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland, Israel's Yad Vashem World Centre for Holocaust Research or the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory can be accessed at the Google Cultural Institute at www.google.com/culturalinstitute.

"We want to bring all of the cutting-edge technologies that we have -- the services, the products, mapping -- to the cultural sector," Google's Mark Yoshitaka told journal-

ists in the Polish capital Warsaw at the Wednesday launch.

With an initial collection of 42 online themes, the archive is set to expand significantly in the coming years, he said.

"It's a fantastic tool, which lets us cross geographic borders, provide access to museum collection around the clock in several languages. It's a real revolution," said Robert Kostro director of the Museum of Polish History.

"Today, we must use all technologies at our disposal to preserve memory," Piotr Cywinski, director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum said at the launch.

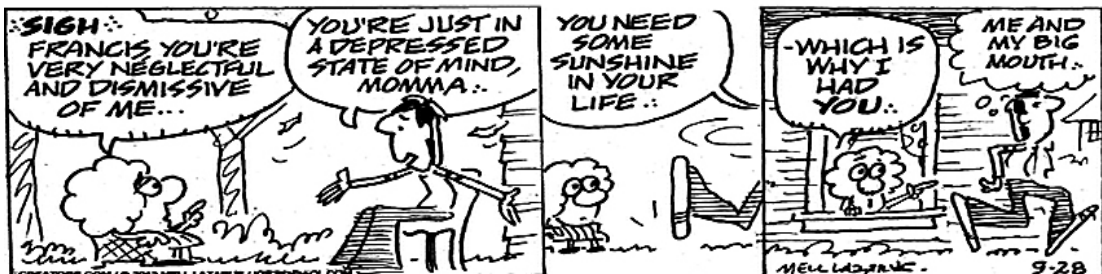
Google's virtual Cultural Institute comes on the heels of the Google Art Project allowing Internet users to explore fine art from around the world with thousands of artworks photographed in extremely high resolution.

COMICS

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IT'S TOO DARN HOT

ACROSS

1. Drink cognac
4. Gillespie's sound
9. River in Germany
13. Bossy Stooze
14. Poplar: Sp.
15. Last name in reference books
17. Thunder Bay's prov.
18. "The Brigs of Ayr" poet
20. Tale
22. Keystone St.
23. ___ blocker
24. Son of Hera
26. Summer top
28. Climbed
31. Relinquish
33. Nabisco's classic treats
34. "Plain Language from James" author

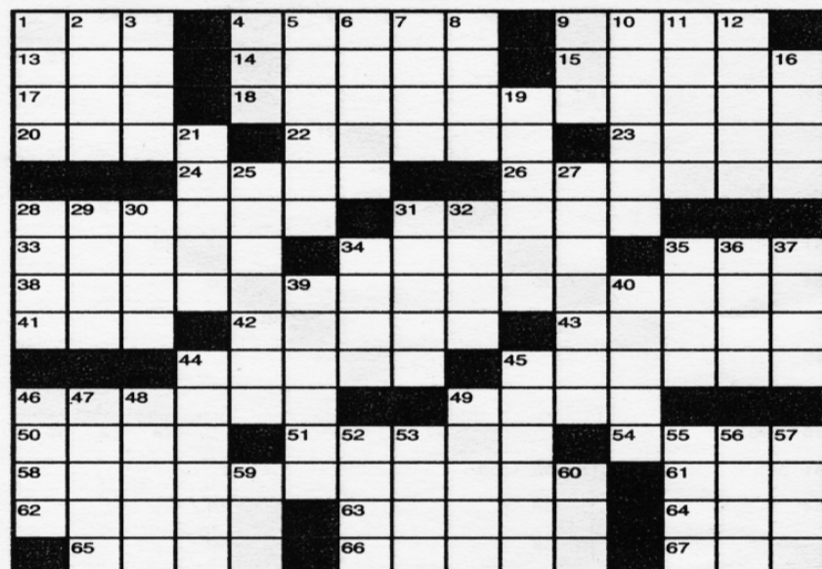
35. 19th Greek letter
38. Get hurt from meddling
41. Old name for Tokyo
42. Has a bias
43. Make cheese sprinkly
44. Chris of tennis
45. Diogenes, for one
46. Brought up
49. About: abbr.
50. Acquire honestly
51. Nantes's river
54. Poet Wilfred
58. Reason to throw out ice cream
61. George's lyrical brother
62. "Stop Making ___" (Talking Heads film)

63. Military group
64. Stupid person
65. Escort
66. Planar measurements
67. Summer, in Montreal

DOWN

1. Los Angeles complaint
2. Skye of "Stranded"
3. Favored ones
4. Ingot
5. Headed for Elkton, Maryland
6. "___ in Toyland"
7. Portent
8. XXX-rated films
9. Crown jewels object
10. Twin
11. Heron's kin

12. French income
16. Autocrat
19. Gauguin's retirement spot
21. Raptor's gripper
25. Settle, as a dispute
27. One who retaliates
28. "___ it!"
29. Gross stuff, slangily
30. Nautical start
31. Didn't exist
32. Canine sounds
34. Pay attention to
35. Wood for salad bowls
36. Goldie's "Laugh-In" costar
37. AOL customer
39. Obelisk
40. Dancer-choreographer José Rutherford or Lawrence of science
44. Rutherford or Lawrence of science
45. Saw-toothed range
46. Whistle-blowers, for short
47. Like some seals
48. Dallas's Reunion, e.g.
49. Uncouth
52. Killer whale
53. Framework piece
55. Like the Magi
56. It was, in Caesar's day
57. What a collar covers
59. Zorro's mark
60. Nintendo game inits.



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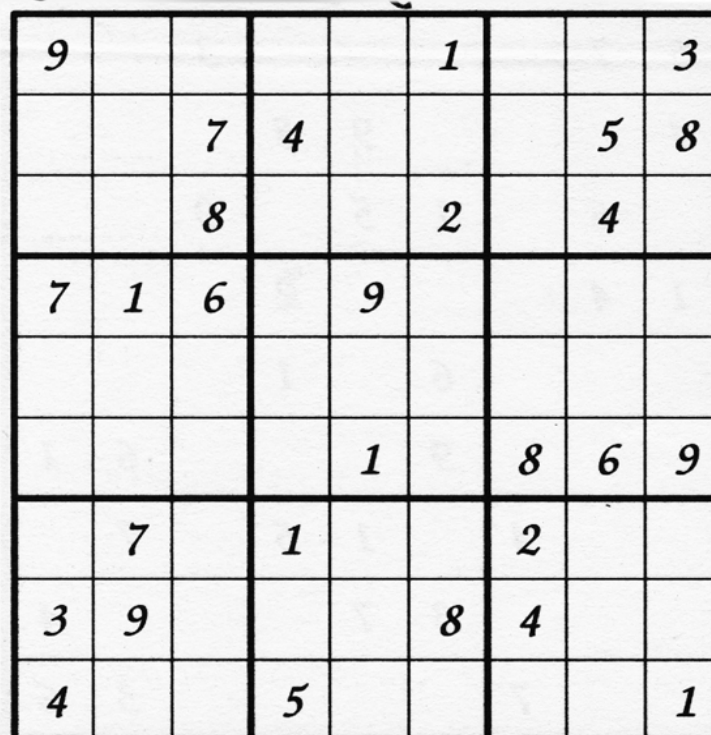
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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5	2	7	8	2	9	1	6	3
9	6	2	5	7	1	5	4	8
6	9	8	2	1	2	7	5	3
4	1	2	5	9	6	8	3	7
2	5	7	6	8	9	1	4	2
4	1	2	5	6	8	9	3	7
8	5	6	9	1	2	7	4	3
5	2	9	1	8	4	7	5	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Spain vows to defy forecasts after debt downgrade

MADRID (AFP) - Spain vowed yesterday to defy predictions of a deep recession next year after a credit rating downgrade left its debt hovering above junk-bond status and jolted world markets.

Standard & Poor's sliced the nation's rating late on Wednesday, citing a deepening recession with one-quarter of workers unemployed, mass protests, and growing political friction between Madrid and the debt-struck regions.

Further clouding the outlook were doubts about the eurozone's commitment to share the cost of salvaging Spain's stricken banks, a bill that could send Spanish sovereign debt soaring, it said.

The New York-based agency, which tips a drop in

Spanish economic output of 1.4 percent in 2013, criticised the government's "overly optimistic" budget forecast for a contraction of just 0.5 percent.

As a result it cut Spain's rating two notches to BBB- from BBB+, leaving it just one level above "speculative" or "junk" grade debt, and left it with a negative outlook.

The International Monetary Fund this week predicted the Spanish economy would shrink 1.3 percent next year.

"What we want is to refute these forecasts through the action of the government," said the Spanish secretary of state for the European Union, Inigo Mendez de Vigo.

"We believe that the state budget that we presented and that will be approved by parlia-

ment complies with the deficit targets we have to meet with the European Union," he added.

The Spanish downgrade knocked major Asian stock markets and Wall Street lower, though European bourses quickly recovered.

More worrying, perhaps, is the prospect of a downgrade by Moody's Investors Service, which has already lowered the sovereign rating to one notch above junk bond status.

If Spain's sovereign debt is rated as junk, it could trigger a flight of investors, sending borrowing rates soaring and accelerating the timetable for any sovereign rescue.

Moody's has promised to announce the results of a review of Spain's finances for a possible downgrade this month.

FINANCE

Aruba Net Foreign Assets Decreased

Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of June 2012

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) concludes in its Monthly Bulletin of June 2012 that broad money fell by Afl. 53.9 million to Afl. 3,162.2 million, arising mainly from an Afl. 110.6 million drop in net foreign assets (excluding revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) to Afl. 1,084.1 million, which was partially offset by an Afl. 56.7 million rise in net domestic assets to Afl. 2,078.1 million. The decline in net foreign assets was caused by net outflows of foreign exchange resulting from both current and capital transactions. Current transactions resulted in an Afl. 42.4 million net outflow of foreign exchange, due mainly to payments for the import of goods and services, and for interest and dividend, which were partially offset by gross tourism receipts. Capital transactions recorded a net outflow of foreign exchange of Afl. 68.2 million, attributed mostly to transfers to foreign accounts of resident companies. The growth in the domestic component of money supply resulted from increases in the net liability of the public sector to the banking sector and in the claims of the banking sector on the private sector of, respectively, Afl. 64.8 million and Afl. 27.7 million. These increases were partially offset by an Afl. 35.8 million fall in the non-credit related balance sheet items, brought about by clearing transactions. The rise in the net liability of the public sector to the banking sector was caused mainly by the is-

suance of Afl. 20 million in treasury bills and an Afl. 37.1 million decline in government deposits. The growth in the banking sector's claims on the private sector was attributed mostly to increases in business loans, housing mortgages, and consumer credit of, respectively, Afl. 19.0 million (+1.6 percent), Afl. 5.8 million (+0.6 percent) and Afl. 3.0 million (+0.5 percent).

The consumer price index (CPI) for June 2012 registered a 0.9 percent increase, compared to the same month of 2011. The main contributors to the rise were housing, food items, and restaurant & hotels. Excluding the effect of food and energy (which partly affects the housing and transport components), the resulting core CPI stood at -0.2 percent compared to 1.5 percent for June 2011, brought about by decreased prices of clothing, household operation and recreation and culture. The 12-month average inflation rate reached 4.8 percent in June 2012.

In June 2012, stay-over arrivals registered a growth of 5,074 visitors or 7.5 percent to 73,073, compared to June 2011. This hike reflected increases in the number of visitors from Venezuela (+1,841 visitors), the United States (+1,787 visitors), and Canada (+593 visitors). The North American market maintained its position as market leader, as 47,347 visitors from this region travelled to Aruba during June 2012, 2,380 or 5.3 percent more than in June 2011. This can be partially attributed to the series of concerts organized by the Aruba International Film Festival (AIFF) during that period. The Latin American market continued to grow, recording an increase of 1,969

visitors (+14.9 percent) to 15,208, compared to June 2011. Once again, Venezuela outperformed other countries in Latin America, representing 93.5 percent of the total growth in this market. In June 2012, the number of cruise visitors fell by 591 (-6.6 percent) to 8,406, due mainly to a change in ship itineraries in that month compared to June 2011. The number of ship calls fell from 6 to 3 in June 2012 compared to June 2011.

In June 2012, registered tax revenue totaled Afl. 83.0 million, an increase of Afl. 17.0 million or 25.8 percent, compared to the same month of the previous year. This rise was associated mostly with an Afl. 18.4 million (+77.6 percent) surge in revenue from wage and profit tax. In addition, revenue from turnover tax (BBO) increased slightly by Afl. 0.4 million or 5.8 percent to Afl. 7.3 million, while foreign exchange tax dropped by Afl. 1.9 million or 37.3 percent to Afl. 3.2 million. Non-tax revenue, on the other hand, posted an Afl. 19.1 million decline in June 2012 compared to the same month of last year, due mainly to lower dividend payments by public entities to the government of Aruba.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of:	Currency	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
10/11/2012	Code			
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.80	1.82	1.84
Britain	GBP	2.79	2.84	2.90
Switzerland	CHF	190.19	190.91	191.71
Netherlands	EUR	227.99	230.08	232.39
Sweden	SEK	25.57	26.29	27.09
Denmark	DKK	29.88	30.60	31.40
Norway	NOK	30.20	30.92	31.72
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Desmond Tutu condemns Taliban shooting of girl



U.N. (AFP) - South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu said Thursday he was "devastated" by the Taliban's shooting of a Pakistani girl who had campaigned for girls' rights to education.

"I can't imagine how anyone can justify maiming a child for what they consider political reasons, because they want women to be subjugated," he said at a press conference here.

Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his role in the struggle against apartheid, said Malala Yousufzai was a "wonderful young woman" who had much to contribute to the world.

She was fighting for her life in a Pakistani military hospital Thursday after a gunman boarded a schoolbus in Pakistan's Swat Valley and shot the 14-year-old and two of her schoolmates.

The Taliban, who have killed thousands of people across Pakistan in the last five years and destroyed hundreds of girls' schools, have issued a statement saying that any female who opposes them should be killed.

Tutu was at the United Nations to deliver a report on child marriage, which he promised to campaign against with the same energy as he did against apartheid.

"We want to eradicate this practice by 2030, and why not? We ended vicious things like apartheid," he said. "This is viciously cruel, how would you feel if it was your younger sister or your daughter?"

He saluted the United Nations for holding for the first time International Girl Day and drawing attention to the discrimination "that has dogged women and girls for centuries."

BEIJING (AFP) - Chinese author Mo Yan said Thursday he was "stunned" and delighted at winning the Nobel prize for literature as millions in China expressed pride and state-controlled media framed the achievement as an honour for the country. Mo Yan, 57, became the first Chinese national to win the prize, and the award finally gave China's government a Nobel it could be proud of, after previous peace prizes to the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama and dissident writer Liu Xiaobo enraged Beijing. "On hearing the news that I won the award, I was very happy," Mo Yan was quoted saying by the official China News Service. "I will focus on creating new works. I will strive harder to thank everyone." Mo Yan is one of China's leading writers, known for works that explore the brutality and darkness of 20th-century Chinese society with a cynical wit in a highly prolific career. The Swedish Academy which announced the award in Stockholm said he was honoured for using "fantasy and reality, historical and social perspectives" to create worlds reminiscent of William Faulkner and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Mo Yan, a pen name for the author, who was born Guan Moye, is perhaps best-known abroad for his 1987 novella "Red Sorghum", a tale of the brutal violence that plagued the eastern China countryside -- where he grew up -- during the 1920s and 30s. It was later made into an acclaimed film by leading Chinese director Zhang Yimou. The Nobel Academy's permanent secretary, Peter Englund, said the organisation had spoken to Mo Yan by telephone at his home and that the author was "overjoyed and terrified" at the award.



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters,

caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5

fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.



5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

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Football: Jaguars to host 49ers in London

LONDON (AFP) - The San Francisco 49ers have been revealed as the Jacksonville Jaguars's opponents in the NFL's International Series at Wembley next year.

The Jaguars had already been confirmed as the 'home' team for the annual London fixture in each year between 2013 and 2016 and the club's owner, Shad Khan, speaking at the Leaders in Sport conference in London on Thursday, confirmed the 49ers as their opening opponents.

Everyone associated with the Jacksonville Jaguars is very much looking forward to our four home games in London through 2016, and we're particularly thrilled and honoured that our first opponent will be the San Francisco 49ers," Khan said.

The NFL, who started the International Series in 2007, are keen to see if there is a market for a Europe-based franchise and Jacksonville's run of home games at Wembley has been seen as the first step in that direction.

Five-time Super Bowl winners San Francisco have already played in the International Series, defeating the Denver Broncos in 2010.

Last year's beaten Super Bowl finalists, the New England Patriots, will face the St Louis Rams in this year's Wembley fixture on October 28.

SPORTS

Football: Brazil hit Zico's Iraq for six



Kaka scores

MALMO, Sweden (AFP) - Brazil knocked Iraq, coached by former Brazil great Zico, for six in the two countries' first ever full international meeting on Thursday.

Chelsea midfielder Oscar

gave the 2014 World Cup hosts a 2-0 lead going into the break in the friendly, with Real Madrid striker Kaka putting the South American giants further ahead shortly after the restart.

Russian-based Hulk added Brazil's fourth just before the hour mark with Santos striker Neymar and Lucas, set to join big-spending French side Paris Saint Germain in January, completing the 6-0 rout.

"I feel great and I am happy to be back in the national squad, to be playing with young players," said Kaka, who was involved for the first time since Brazil's quarter-final exit at the 2010 World Cup.

The Iraqis turned to Sweden to stage this game with world body FIFA refusing to allow them to play home matches following a chaotic

match against Jordan in the city of Erbil, capital of the Iraqi region of Kurdistan.

Iraq were keen to meet some top-drawer opponents as they gear up for their October 16 World Cup qualifier against Australia in Doha.

Brazil fitted the bill nicely, particularly as they were otherwise free in an international week having already qualified as hosts for 2014.

The auriverde won an August friendly 3-0 against Sweden in Malmo.

They also lifted their first World Cup in 1958 at the Råsunda stadium in nearby Solna.



MADRID : Former formula one Marussia test driver Spanish Maria de Villota gives a press conference in Madrid yesterday . De Villota, 32, lost her right eye and suffered severe head injuries after crashing while conducting a straight line test at an airfield base in Cambridgeshire, on July 3, 2012.

AFP PHOTO



MALAGA, Spain : Unicaja's Serbian center Kosta Perovic (L) vies with Maccabi Electra's US forward Nick Caner Medley (R) during the Euroleague basketball match Unicaja vs Maccabi Electra at the Palacio de los deportes J.M. Martin Carpena sports hall on October 11, 2012.

AFP PHOTO



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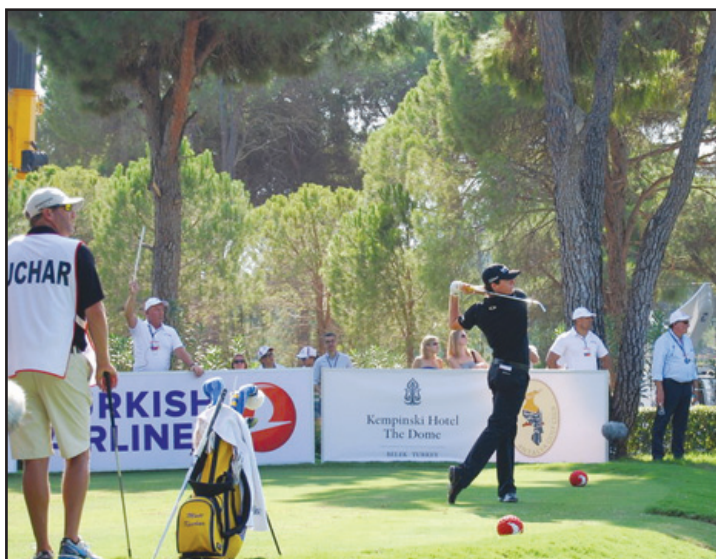
Golf: Rose beats Woods, faces Westwood in final

BELEK, Turkey (AFP) - England's Justin Rose produced a Tiger Woods like shot to defeat the 14-time Major winning American and set up a showdown with compatriot Lee Westwood in the World Golf final on Thursday.

The World No. 5-ranked Rose was trailing in his semi-final tie against Woods until holing an improbable 110-yard wedge shot at the par four, 14th hole for an eagle.

An embarrassed Rose then tried to cover his face with his cap en route to a round of two under par 69 to defeat Woods who signed for a 70.

After having dealt with



Woods, Rose now heads to the final "hungry" to finish in front of Westwood, his European Ryder Cup winning team mate.

"I was really struggling early on today and to can that shot at 14 was easily the turning point," reflected Rose.

"In proper match-play you would only win the hole but in this format I've picked up two shots on Tiger and it's helped me win the match.

Westwood secured his passage to Friday's final when setting a new course record of a 10 under par 61 to defeat former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel who carded a 67 on the Sultan Course at the Antalya Club.

Westwood's round included two eagles along with eight birdies, including a 50-footer at the last but also a fourth hole double bogey.

Westwood's score came some five hours after he shot a 64 to defeat American rival Hunter Mahan in the morning's weather-delayed third round.

Woods had earlier easily accounted for world number one Rory McIlroy in the first ever matchplay showdown between the pair to reach the last four.

Woods was always ahead,

shooting a seven-under-par 64 to McIlroy's one-under-par 70.

Rose, meanwhile, defeated reigning US Open champion, Webb Simpson with a new course record of nine-under-par 62, compared to Simpson's 67.

McIlroy, who had already lost his opening two matches, began horribly against Woods when he found the water off the opening tee and he did not drop below par for the round until he birdied the 17th hole.

McIlroy said he was now looking forward to time away from the course despite having to return today for a Pro-Am involving all eight players.

"I just came here because I have never played in Turkey and there is a lot of good players here, and I thought it would be a fun week and it has been.

"So I've enjoyed myself. I feel fine and the energy levels are okay and I've got another week off next week before I get myself up for the Race to Dubai."

However, McIlroy's immediate concern is getting a Russian visa so he can accompany girlfriend Caroline Wozniacki to Moscow, where the Danish tennis star will be contesting the Kremlin Cup next week.

Basketball: Miami Heat trumps Los Angeles in China



BEIJING (AFP) - Reigning NBA champions Miami Heat dispatched the Los Angeles Clippers 94-80 Thursday thanks to 20 points from superstar LeBron James in a pre-season exhibition before a raucous Beijing crowd.

The sell-out audience was on its feet as soon as the Heat took the court with James and teammate Dwyane Wade waving to fans in the Wukesong arena where the pair won the 2008 Olympic gold medal for Team USA.

The Heat went to work from the start, with James scoring his team's first six points and delighting the crowd with a series of dunks and jumpers.

Miami kept up the intensity in the second frame despite the game being only an exhibition.

Basketball is arguably the

most popular sport in China where an estimated 300 million people play the game, while the National Basketball Association has done a masterful job of showcasing the sport in the world's most populous nation.

Despite the 2011 retirement of iconic former Houston Rocket centre Yao Ming and the return to China this year of former Dallas Maverick forward Yi Jianlian, the NBA remains popular in China despite no home grown players in the globe's top league.

The popularity of the sport is also attributed to a growing number of former NBA stars playing in China, led by one time New York Knick Stephon Marbury, who won a Chinese Basketball Association championship with the Beijing Ducks last season.

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CYCLING: Six ex-Armstrong teammates suspended for doping

PARIS (AFP) - Six former teammates of Lance Armstrong have been suspended for six months by the US Anti-doping Agency (USADA) after they all admitted doping.

Five Americans - Levi Leipheimer, 38 (of the Omega Pharma-Quickstep team), Christian Vande Velde, 36, David Zabriskie, 33, and Tom Danielson, 34, (all of Garmin-Sharp), George Hincapie, 39, (BMC) - and one Canadian, 36-year-

old Michael Barry (Sky) all received six-month bans which will run from September 1 this year.

They were suspended after admitting to blood transfusions and taking substances including the banned blood-booster EPO, human growth hormone, cortisone and testosterone.

Their bans were announced by the USADA on Wednesday alongside the organisation's detailed reasons why it banned Armstrong for

life in August.

In their 1,000 page report USADA accused Armstrong's US Postal Service team of "the most sophisticated, professionalised and

successful doping programme that sport has ever seen".

Eleven former teammates gave evidence against Armstrong -- who battled back

from life-threatening cancer to win the Tour de France seven times -- accusing him of taking banned substances and enforcing a doping culture within the team.

Baseball: Best of five



CINCINNATI - The San Francisco Giants beat the Cincinnati Reds 6-4 to compete an improbable comeback and win the National League division series today. The Giants became the first N.L. team to trail a series 2-0 then win three in a row on the road to close out the playoff.

Buster Posey's fifth-inning grand slam provided needed offense for the Giants, giving them a 6-0 lead.

The Reds battled back with two runs in the bottom of the inning a single run in the sixth.

The Reds scored another run in the bottom of the ninth inning, but left two runners on base when reliever Sergio Romo struck out Scott Rolen to end the game.

Giants starter Matt Cain went 5 2/3 innings to earn the victory, allowing three runs and striking out five. Matt Latos started for the Reds and allowed all six Giants runs.

While in NEW YORK, Historic home runs by Raul Ibanez rallied the New York Yankees to an unlikely Major League Baseball playoff triumph Wednesday while

Coco Crisp's last-inning heroics kept Oakland's title dreams alive.

As a result, both tension-packed American League best-of-five divisional series will resume again Thursday with three teams having a chance to advance and the Baltimore Orioles fighting to sustain their championship hopes.

New York's Ibanez blasted a game-winning solo homer in the 12th inning after tying the game with a solo homer in the ninth to lift the host Yankees over the Orioles 3-2, giving New York a 2-1 lead in their series.

And in Oakland, the A's scored three runs in the ninth -- the last on a two-out single by Crisp -- to defeat Detroit 4-3 and level their best-of-five battle at 2-2, setting up a one-game showdown to advance on Thursday.

The winners of each series will meet in the best-of-seven American League championship series with that winner advancing to play the National League champion in the World Series.

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